



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION LEAPFROG
**JURY CONVICTS OZARK MAN IN MULTI-KILO
METH CONSPIRACY**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that an Ozark, Mo., man has been convicted by a federal jury for his role in a large-scale methamphetamine conspiracy. Wednesday's conviction is a result of Operation Leapfrog, a nationwide investigation that involves multi-pound shipments of methamphetamine into southwest Missouri. This case focuses on the conspiracy to transport methamphetamine from Texas for distribution in Greene County, Mo.

Clint L. Ball, 34, of Ozark, was found guilty of participating in a conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine in Greene County from October 2003 to March 26, 2004. **Ball** was a distributor in southwest Missouri, Schlozman said, purchasing methamphetamine from co-defendant **Eric Fujan**, 23, of Branson, Mo., and redistributing the drug to others.

Ball was also found guilty of being in possession of a Ruger Single 6.22 caliber revolver and a Savage Model 93 .22 caliber rifle on March 26, 2004. Under federal law, Schlozman explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an unlawful user of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

Following the presentation of evidence, the jury in U.S. District Court in Springfield deliberated about two and a half hours before returning the guilty verdict late Wednesday afternoon to U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr, ending a trial that began last Thursday, May 24, 2006.

Under federal statutes, **Ball** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the

United States Probation Office.

Eight co-defendants have pleaded guilty to the charges contained in a March 31, 2004, federal indictment, and six of them have been sentenced.

* **Edward Gallegos**, 22, of Dallas, was sentenced on April 6, 2006, to 14 years in federal prison without parole. On Nov. 21, 2005, **Gallegos** pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

* **Toulavanh Phanithasack**, 30, of Ozark, was sentenced on Jan. 17, 2006, to 15 years and eight months in federal prison without parole. On Sept. 27, 2005, **Phanithasack** pleaded guilty to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. The amount of methamphetamine that he conspired to distribute was more than five kilograms, but less than 15 kilograms.

* **John Harris**, 32, of Branson, Mo., was sentenced on Dec. 19, 2005, to five years and eight months in federal prison without parole. **Harris** pleaded guilty on Aug. 30, 2005, to his role in the conspiracy. The amount of methamphetamine that he conspired to distribute was more than five kilograms, but less than 15 kilograms.

* **David Sonesourinhasack**, 22, of Cedar Hills, Mo., was sentenced on Aug. 26, 2005, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. **Sonesourinhasack** also forfeited to the government \$4,400, which constitutes proceeds from the distribution of methamphetamine. On Jan. 5, 2005, **Sonesourinhasack** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute more than five kilograms, but less than 15 kilograms, of methamphetamine.

* **Daryl Schoenfeldt**, 23, of Springfield, Mo., was sentenced on June 14, 2005, to 14 years in federal prison without parole. **Schoenfeldt** pleaded guilty on Dec. 1, 2004, to his role in the conspiracy.

* **Fujan** was sentenced on July 29, 2005, to six years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Fujan** to forfeit to the government \$6,489, which constitutes proceeds from the distribution of methamphetamine. **Fujan** pleaded guilty on Aug. 12, 2004, to his role in the conspiracy.

* **Josh Hurst**, 25, of Kisse Mills, Mo., pleaded guilty on May 16, 2006, to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. **Hurst** admitted that the amount he conspired to distribute was more than 500 grams but less than 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine.

* **Jared Calovich**, 24, of Nixa, pleaded guilty on March 10, 2006, to his role in the methamphetamine conspiracy. The amount of methamphetamine that he conspired to distribute was more than five kilograms, but less than 15 kilograms.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, COMBAT (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement

Team), the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Dallas County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html